



WINGS OF HONOR

The Wings They Wore ... The Wings That Carried Them to Victory

*Our Tribute to the Airmen of WWII,
The Planes They Flew
and*

*The Military and Civilian Personnel
Who Supported Their Mission*

Walnut Ridge Army Flying School Museum
dba **WINGS OF HONOR MUSEUM**
70 South Beacon Road
Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476

March 2011 Newsletter

Harold Johnson, Editor 800-584-5575

DON'T FORGET, IT'S REUNION TIME!

APRIL 2011

13th Annual WRAAF Reunion →
on the former Walnut Ridge Army Air Field
Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

Friday

8

Saturday

9

I hope you'll join your friends and museum volunteers in Walnut Ridge the weekend of April 8-9 for the 13th annual Air Field Reunion. We're eager to see you! Please bring photos, scrapbooks, logbooks, certificates and *Special Orders* for copying. Tour the museum, reminisce, and enjoy live music, door prizes, *great food*, and more. *Tuskegee Airman, Milton Pitts Crenshaw* will be here Friday and Saturday.

Friday

9 A.M.—8 P.M., Museum Open
10:30–11:45, Air Field History Slides
12:00–1:00, Lunch Break (on your own)
Parachute Inn serves a Catfish buffet.
1:30–2:30, WWII Remembrances
3:00–4:00, Oral History Videos
4:30–5:00, Air Field Documentary
6:00 – 8:00, Dinner (In museum media room. \$10 donation per person suggested to help defray cost.) (*Catfish, Bar-B-Q, and Fried Chicken, Sides, Drink, and Dessert*)

Saturday

9 A.M.—5 P.M., Museum Open
10:15–10:45, Musical Program
11:00–11:45, Tuskegee Airman Instructor, Milton Pitts Crenshaw
12:00–1:00, Lunch in museum (*Bar-B-Q, Hot Dogs, Chips, Dip, Drink, and Dessert.* \$5 donation per person suggested to defray cost.)
1:30–2:30 WWII Memories
3:00–4:00, Oral History Videos
4:30–5:00, Air Field Documentary

Sunday

2:00–5:00 P.M. Museum Open

This will be a great time to tour the museum, chat with friends, watch oral history tapes, browse through the library and share your experiences and ideas with us.

Thank a Veteran for your Freedom!

It would be helpful to let us know if you plan to attend; but it is not required. For more information, contact Harold Johnson, 800-584-5575, harold@bscn.com, or write: Wings of Honor Museum, 70 South Beacon Road, Walnut Ridge, AR, 72476. Nearby motels include Days Inn, 870-892-9500, or Best Value Cottonwood Inn, 870-892-2581, about 10 miles north, in Pocahontas. (Both offer a 10% discount with AAA or AARP *if you ask*.) If you plan to fly in by scheduled airline, Memphis, the nearest large hub, is about 109 miles from Walnut Ridge – Little Rock, about 132 miles. **We're looking forward to seeing you!!**

Museum Receives \$30,680 Grant

In March 2010, The Wings of Honor Museum was invited by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to apply for Grant for an **Aviation Cadet Exhibit**. On May 18, the museum was notified they had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$30,680.

The museum was supported in their grant application by letters from several friends and public officials. Without their assistance, this grant may have gone elsewhere. Thanks for their backing and to the Department of Parks and Tourism for this generous grant.

The museum had long ago planned such an exhibit as an integral part of a comprehensive WWII exhibit, but lacked the funds for construction. The new exhibits will cover 2,500 square feet, extending from the "Hard Times" display, 50 feet south and 50 feet west to the outer walls of the museum.

Artifacts, memorabilia, photographs and other materials from existing displays throughout the museum are being used to supplement many new items which have been acquired.

Although the Grant only covers the Aviation Cadet Display, the museum considered it important to do both the *Aviation Cadet Display* and the *Comprehensive WWII Display* at the same time -- therefore, they have used reserve funds along with generous contributions of museum board members to build the necessary framework, and for equipment and additional artifacts essential to both displays.

Although the displays are a long way from completion, visitors can visualize what the finished product will be like as they walk through the maze of walls, and look at "proof" copies of proposed narratives.

THE PLAN ON THE FACING PAGE SHOWS THE NEW EXHIBIT'S GENERAL DISPLAY THEMES, AND THEIR LOCATION. →

\$1,500 U.P. Railroad Grant Received

The Museum has received its second grant from the Union Pacific, and it could not have come at a better time. This grant funded the *Prelude to War Exhibit*, which has received a lot of favorable comments. Our thanks to the Union Pacific!

Highway Sign

In cooperation with the Walnut Ridge Airport Commission, a new highway sign was installed last summer on Highway 67 north of Walnut Ridge, about one-half mile before the turn-off to the museum. It



has attracted a lot of attention and resulted in many visitors. The sign

company has offered to put a slightly larger sign on Highway 63 in Jonesboro for \$200 per month. If you would like to sponsor a new sign in Jonesboro, please call Harold Johnson at 800-584-5575.

Web Site

The museum's web site is wingsofhonor.org. Send e-mails to harold@bscn.com.

Gift Shop

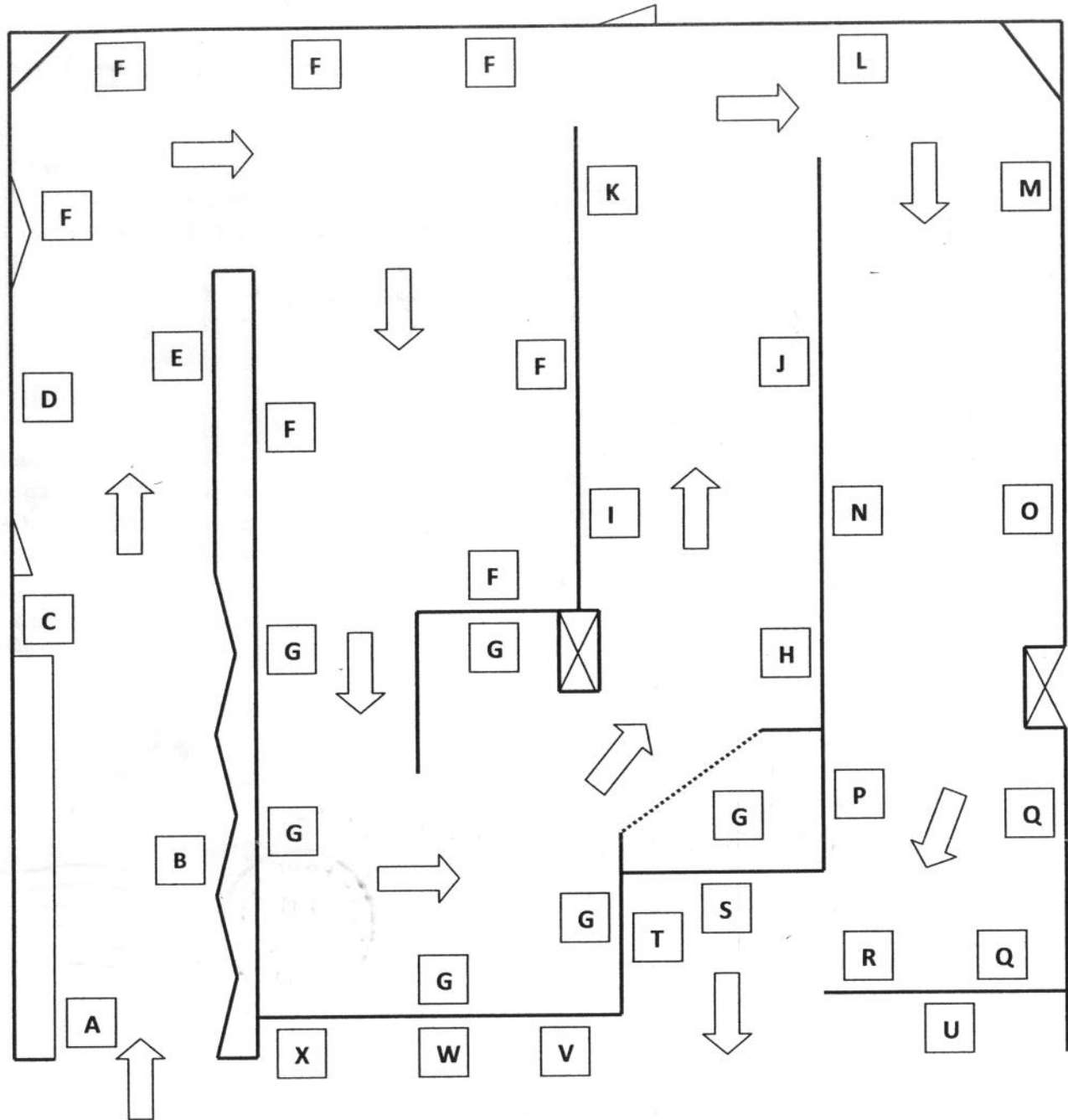
The Wings of Honor Gift Shop is operated by Judy Wilson. It contains a lot of interesting items for young and old. Don't forget the grandkids when you visit. The Gift Shop is not set up for credit cards -- Cash or Check only.

Bricks

The museum is still selling "Bricks" as a fundraising project. The price is \$60 per brick. They can be for veterans or non-veterans. This is a good way to honor a friend, relative or members of your immediate family. Large 36x42 inch Memorial Stones for veterans are available for \$2,500.

Donations Needed and Appreciated

The museum's utilities and insurance average about \$800 per month. Your help is appreciated! For tax purposes, remember, the museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.



Wings of Honor Museum

Construction in Progress on New 2,500 Square-Foot Aviation Cadet and WWII Exhibit
(Located in the south end of present building)

Legend

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A Hard Times | I Home Front | Q Weapons of War |
| B Prelude to War | J Arkansas in WWII | R The Cost of War |
| C Comparison of Forces | K Japanese Internment | S Supporting the Troops |
| D Mobilization/Production | L Delivering the goods by air | T Holocaust |
| E Pearl Harbor | M Delivering the goods by sea | U American Overseas Cem. |
| F Aviation Cadets | N War With Japan | V German POW Camps |
| G Walnut Ridge AAFBFS | O War With Germany | W Japanese POW Camps |
| H WWII Chronology | P Atomic Bomb | X U.S. POW Camps |

TIME IS FLYING – Let's try to do MORE!

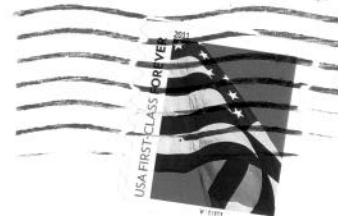
Thirteen years ago a small group met and formed the Walnut Ridge Army Flying School Museum. There was such rich history surrounding this air field. It had brought the area out of the Great Depression, created jobs for so many who had been without, served our country by training over 5,300 pilots for the war, and brought many couples together, who would later marry and live the American Dream. It served as one of five giant aircraft storage, sales and salvage facilities for AAF Aircraft following the war. Most Americans sacrificed in those tough years... 1942-1945. Many made the supreme sacrifice. We had a great opportunity, and still do, to honor them and preserve this rich history. So many are now gone – and those that remain are going rapidly. We must not let them down! I urge everyone reading this – board members or friends of the museum, to resolve to *do* and *give* more. Let's finish our World War II display so future generations will know – vividly – what great price was paid for their freedom!

Wings of Honor Museum
70 South Beacon Road
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Thanks, Frank and Judy!

If you walked through the museum in early 2005 when it was just a shell, you can readily see how much work has been done. The framing of the interior walls which you see today, and the complete construction of the new maze of walls for the Aviation Cadet and World War II Exhibits was done through many hundreds of hours of donated labor by one of our founding board members, Frank Wilson, with help from board members Bill O'Barts and Billy Barber. Frank also did the Plexiglas display cases for guns, uniforms and other artifacts. There is no way the museum could have hired this work done. And of course, when it's done by someone who really cares about the project – that is all the better! Frank's wife, Judy serves as museum Curator, operates the Wings of Honor Gift Shop, and arranges the outstanding displays which you see through the museum. Thanks, Frank and Judy! – and Bill and Billy!

**Your generous contributions help
preserve the rich history of the
Walnut Ridge Army Air Field**



McFarlin, Jarrett "Mac"
FAA FSDO
1701 Bond Street
Little Rock, AR 72202

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2011

BY: LIT FSDO-11

